

What is claimed is:

1. A method for browsing the Internet comprising:

transmitting a first user request over a communication link to a voice browser, said voice browser operating in accordance with a voice-based protocol;

- 10 generating a browsing request in response to said first user request, said browsing request identifying a web server corresponding to said first user request;

retrieving web page information from said web server in accordance with said browsing request, said web page information being formatted in accordance with a predefined protocol;

- 15 converting at least a first portion of said web page information into a file of converted information formatted in compliance with said voice-based protocol; and

responding to said first user request on the basis of said file of converted information.

- 20 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said browsing request specifies an address of a conversion server, said conversion server establishing a communication channel with said voice browser upon receipt of said browsing request.

- 25 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said retrieving includes issuing a query to said web server in accordance with said browsing request, said query being formatted in accordance with a standard Internet protocol.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said retrieving includes performing a branch traversal process by retrieving branched content from at least one first level branched page linked to a root page wherein content from said root page is included within said first portion of said web
30 page information.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said branch traversal process includes retrieving additional branched content from at least one second level branched page linked to said at

5 least one first level branched page, said additional branched content being included within a second portion of said web page information.

6. The method of claim 4 further including
converting said second portion of said web page information into an additional file of
10 converted information formatted in compliance with said voice-based protocol;
receiving at said voice browser a second user request corresponding to said branched content and responding to said second user request on the basis of information relating to said branched content included within said additional file of converted information.

15 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said first and second user requests are comprised of audio information

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said first user request identifies a first web site formatted inconsistently with said predefined protocol, said generating a browsing request including selecting a second web site comprising a version of said first web site formatted consistently with said predefined protocol.

9. A system for browsing the Internet comprising:
a voice browser operating in accordance with a voice-based protocol, said voice
25 browser receiving a first user request transmitted over a communication link and generating a browsing request in response to said first user request; and
a conversion server in communication with said voice browser, said conversion server including

a retrieval module for retrieving web page information from a destination web
30 site in accordance with said browsing request, said web page information being formatted in accordance with a predefined protocol;

a conversion module for converting at least a first portion of said web page information into a file of converted information compliant with said voice-based protocol; and

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5 an interface for providing said file of converted information to said voice browser.

10 10. The system of claim 9 wherein said browsing request specifies an address of said conversion server, said conversion server establishing a communication channel with said voice browser upon receipt of said browsing request.

15 11. The system of claim 9 wherein said web page information includes branched content from at least one first level branched page linked to a root page, said retrieval module performing a branch traversal process by retrieving said branched content and content from said root page.

20 12. The system of claim 11 wherein said branch traversal process includes retrieving additional branched content from at least one second level branched page linked to said at least one first level branched page, said additional branched content being included within said web page information.

25 13. The system of claim 12 wherein a second portion of said web page information is converted into an additional file of converted information formatted in compliance with said voice-based protocol, said voice browser receiving a second user request corresponding to said branched content and responding to said second user request on the basis of information relating to said branched content included within said additional file of converted information.

30 14. The system of claim 9 wherein said conversion server further includes a database of web sites formatted in accordance with said predefined protocol and wherein said browsing request identifies a first web site formatted inconsistently with said predefined protocol, said retrieval module selecting said destination web site from said database wherein said destination web site comprises a version of said first web site formatted consistently with said predefined protocol.

5 15. A method for facilitating the retrieval of information through a voice browser operative in accordance with a voice-based protocol, said method comprising:

receiving a browsing request from said voice browser, said browsing request being issued by said voice browser in response to a first user request for content;

10 retrieving information from a remote information source in accordance with said browsing request, said information being formatted in accordance with a predefined protocol; and

converting said information into a file of converted information compliant with said voice-based protocol.

15 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said first user request identifies a first web site formatted inconsistently with said predefined protocol, said generating a browsing request including selecting said remote information source from a predefined set of protocol compliant web sites wherein said remote information source comprises a version of said first web site formatted consistently with said predefined protocol.

20 17. The method of claim 15 further including providing said file of converted information to said voice browser using standard Internet protocols.

25 18. The method of claim 15 wherein said browsing request identifies a conversion script, said conversion script executing upon receipt of said browsing request.

30 19. The method of claim 15 further including maintaining a database of web sites formatted in accordance with said predefined protocol wherein said browsing request identifies a first web site formatted inconsistently with said predefined protocol, said method further including selecting said remote information source from said database wherein said remote information source comprises a version of said first web site formatted consistently with said predefined protocol.

5 20. A method for retrieving content using a voice-based communication system comprising:

transmitting a first user request over a communication link to a voice browser, said voice browser operating in accordance with a voice-based protocol;

10 generating a browsing request in response to said first user request, said browsing request identifying a first remote information source corresponding to said first user request;

retrieving content from said first remote information source in accordance with said browsing request, said content being formatted in accordance with a predefined protocol;

converting said content into a file of converted information formatted in compliance with said voice-based protocol; and

15 responding to said first user request on the basis of said file of converted information.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein said browsing request specifies an address of a conversion server, said conversion server establishing a communication channel with said voice browser upon receipt of said browsing request.

20 22. The method of claim 20 wherein said first user request identifies a web site formatted inconsistently with said predefined protocol, said generating a browsing request including selecting a second web site as said first remote information source wherein said second web site is formatted consistently with said predefined protocol.

25 23. The method of claim 22 further including:

receiving at said voice browser a second user request corresponding to a second remote information source comprising a database formatted inconsistently with said voice-based protocol,

30 retrieving information from said database, and

converting said information into an additional file of converted information formatted in compliance with said voice-based protocol.